



Everglades Restoration Transition Plan Update and Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow Discussion

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Water Resources Advisory Commission

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Everglades Restoration Transition Plan (ERTP) Background

- Governs the operations for WCA-3A, Everglades National Park and South Dade
- Major focus of previous operations (Interim Operational Plan) focused on efforts to protect the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow
- Ten years of operational experience, new structures provided opportunity to ease Interim Operational Plan (IOP) constraints
- Update to Biological Opinion offered the chance to take a more system-wide multi-species approach

Rationale for Implementing Everglades Restoration Transition Plan (ERTP)

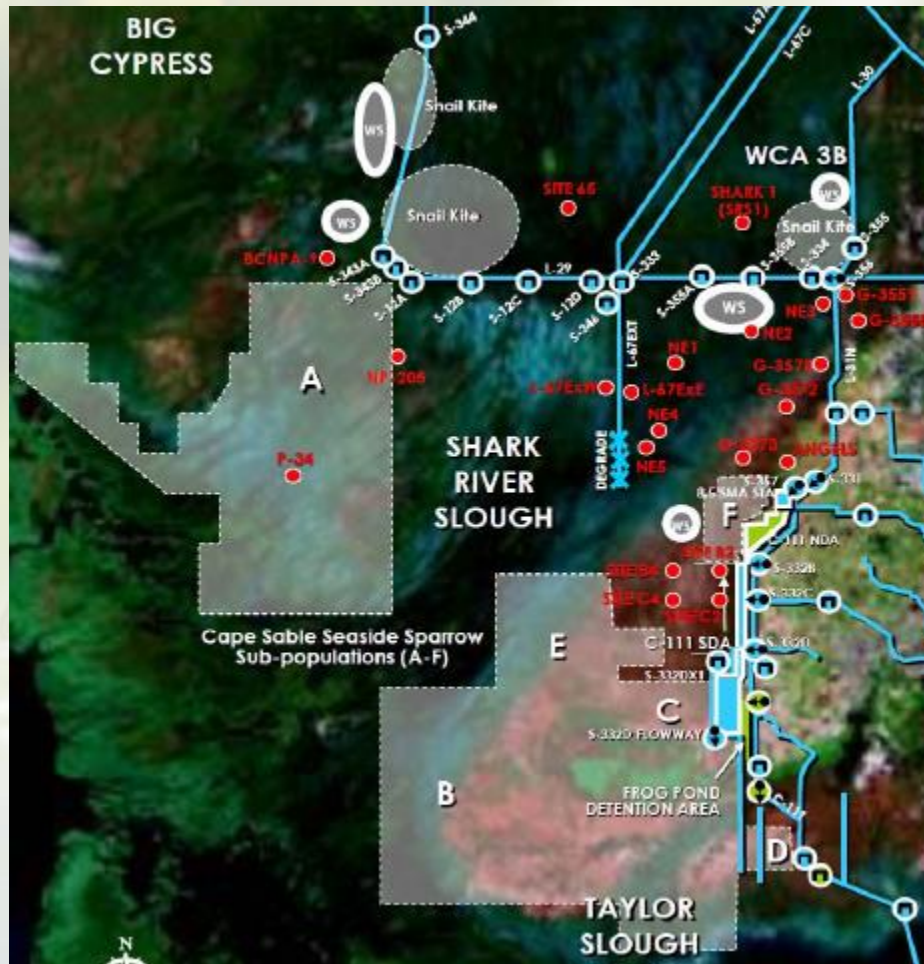
- Expiration of Interim Operational Plan
Biological Opinion on November 17, 2010
- Relevant New Species Information
 - Everglade Snail Kite
 - Wood Storks and other wading birds
- WCA-3A Interim High Water Criteria
 - Discharge limitations of the S-12s

System Operations with the Interim Operating Plan (IOP)



- Focused on single-species management for Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow
- Potential adverse effects associated with WCA-3A hydrologic conditions:
 - Prolonged High Water Levels
 - Prolonged Low Water Levels
 - Rapid Recession and Ascension Rates

System Improvements Anticipated with Everglades Restoration Transition Plan (ERTP)

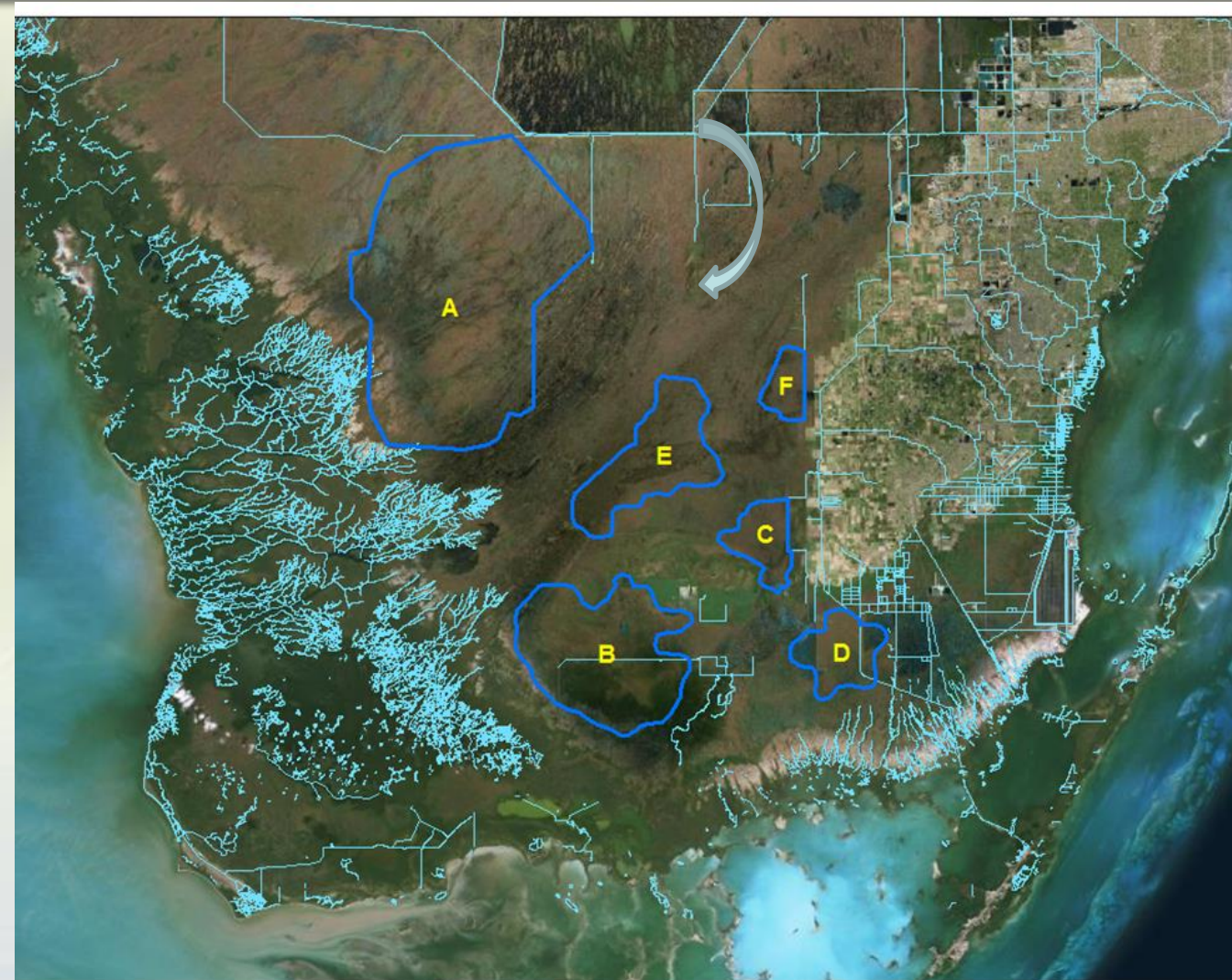


- Improved conditions for the Everglade snail kite, wood stork and other wading birds and their habitats in WCA-3A
- Maintained nesting season requirements for the Cape Sable seaside sparrow
- Maintained other C&SF project purposes-mitigating for reduced conveyance capacity of S-12s

Endangered Species Act (ESA) Consultation

- Biological Opinion associated with ERTTP has specific requirements for protection of CSSS USACE Reinitiated Consultation November 17, 2014
 - Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow population estimate dropped resulting in Reinitiation Trigger
 - Technical team convened to identify reasonable and prudent alternatives
 - Increment 1 Field Test will be beneficial
 - Memorandum of Understanding among DOI agencies
 - Other near and mid-term alternatives will be considered
 - Lawsuit filed by Center Biological Diversity

Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow Populations



Legend

-  Sparrow Population Locations
-  Canals / Streams / Rivers



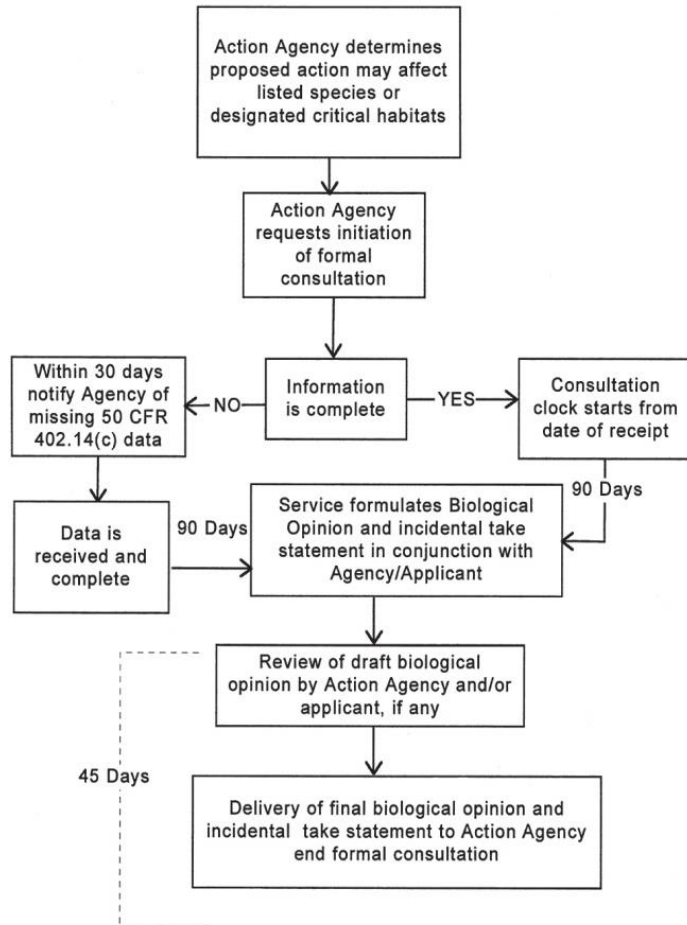
0 3 6 12 Miles



Consultation Timeline

***** Final ESA Section 7 Consultation Handbook, March 1998 *****

Figure 4-1. Formal consultation process.



ERTP Biological Opinion expires:
January 1, 2016

Timeline:

- August 18, 2015: USACE provides Complete Biological Assessment to FWS
- November 16, 2015: FWS provides Draft Biological Opinion for Review
- December 31, 2015: FWS provides Final Biological Opinion to USACE



Discussion